Methodist Peace Courier

BOARD OF WORLD PEACE
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THE PERIL OF MAKING MOSCOW OMNICOMPETENT

American foreign policy trembles between full economic competition with Soviet Russia and blunting the Communist thrust at all costs. It oscillates between coexistence and accelerated cold war. Of late the "war party" in America through voices like Dr. Edward Teller and columnist-editor David Lawrence have been more vocal than previously.

Let no one undersell the effect of the Communist Revolution in recent history! Moreover, they are the largest monolithic political and social segment of society. In all policy decisions what they will do cannot be overlooked.

Nonetheless, there is a peculiar tendency among Americans to make the Soviet leaders the fanciful architects of world affairs.

Most recent evidence are the awkward incidents in Vice-President Nixon's visit to South America, which J. Edgar Hoover among others sagely informs us was communist-inspired directly from Moscow. That outside agitation was involved no one questions for a moment.

But let us not blind ourselves to some more basic facts. For example, that South America has had but 1½ per cent of the grants to Europe and Asia despite extreme economic difficulties in countries like Bolivia and Colombia. U.S. trade barriers, U.S. ties with dictators and U.S. recession factors added to the tension. On this the U.S.S.R. "cashed in." They didn't create either the situation, or the opportunity; they just seized it.

The awakening of Africa to modernity and the independence of its countries ends all that the West called "The Dark Continent." An African at the recent ACCRA Conference of eight African nations held in Ghana said, "When the European came he had the Bible and we had the land; now he has the land and we have the Bible."

This revolution of human purpose and striving by tens of millions newly free would shake Africa even without communist infiltration. The U.S.S.R. legation in Ghana numbers 60 to 80 experts regularly against 15 in the U.S. embassy staff. But here again Russians are but opportunists.

In Asia two new Great Powers, India and Ghana, are coming into being, soon to match in stature the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. in the West. The power centers of Asia will weigh largely in world affairs in the last quarter of our century.

Scores of nations are seeking the power and technology to develop their country's potential and meet the needs of their citizens. Four out of every ten people in the world live in countries where the required power output can be gained only through easily imported fuels such as atomic energy. Italy with 12 million kilowatts of electric generating capacity must double her power output in 9 years. Turkey sees her need as requiring doubled capacity in 5 years.

The present is yeasty with great aims and profound changes. American policy will fail to come to grips with the situation as long as we persist in over-simple diagnosis and equally simple solutions. It is easy to "blame it all on the reds" -- and it is just true enough to fool us. Despite the many Soviet achievements in science and technology which we all perceive, she hasn't that much cleverness or leadership. Let us not make Moscow ommicompetent!

Equally deceptive to full understanding is the popular attempt to line up "sides" -- those "for us" and those "against", while we chide the "neutrals" for their indecision or independence. Facile solutions are foolhardy. Moreover, the world isn't that simple and neither is history.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

The new president of the National Council of Churches, Dr. Edwin Dahlberg, pastor of the Delmar Baptist Church in St.Louis, will issue an Independence Day Proclamation recommending that "the churches initiate appropriate celebrations of Independence Day stressing the fundamental freedoms, the religious motivations, the citizenship duties, and the world responsibilities of our nation."

CONGRESSWOMAN'S PEACE PROPOSAL

Mrs. Edith Green, Congresswoman from the Third District, Oregon, has introduced a unique proposal in the House of Representatives. Mrs. Green introduced a bill "To establish a people's program for peace, to provide for investments in peace through the United Nations, to permit deductions from personal income taxes for payments made thereto, and for other purposes ...That this Act may be cited as the 'United Nations Investments in Peace Act of 1958.'"

Under "Findings and Policy" Mrs. Green would have -

"Sec. 2 (a) The Congress hereby finds and declares that -

"(1) the waging of all-out war with thermonuclear weapons would be so unthinkably destructive as to make it impossible to say that either side could 'win' such a war;

"(2) such a war might well endanger all life upon this planet;

"(3) the primary objective of national defense must be to avoid such a war rather than to fight;

"(4) nonmilitary means of making and keeping peace are in fact an integral part of our national defense;

"(5) the United Nations is the recognized international agency created and maintained for the express purpose of providing peaceful means of settling disputes and easing tensions between nations and providing a means for cooperatively attacking the problems that unsettle world peace; and

"(6) it is in the national interest to encourage widespread thinking by every citizen of the United States and of other freedom loving countries on the question: 'What actually does help to produce lasting peace,' to make such individuals contribute in time, energy, interest, and money toward the achievement of lasting peace through the removal of the basic causes of dissension among nations, thereby promoting a person-to-person participation in international economic development.

"(b) It shall, therefore, be the national policy to assume international leaderships through the United Nations in a people's program for peace by encouraging in every way possible the provision through the United Nations of technical and economic assistance to nations needing such assistance."

UNITED NATIONS INVESTMENTS IN PEACE is the title of provision for a United Nations Fund -- and technical provisions for income tax credit.

Well, isn't this enough to whet your appetite for more information and a chance to do something? Why not write to your own congressman (or congresswoman) or to Congresswoman Elsie Green, House of Representatives, asking for a copy of the Bill - H.R. 12310? Read it, discuss it with family, school, civic clubs, church, community, etc. Send letters to Mrs. Green and to your own representatives in Congress.

THE POPULATION BOMB

In recent months high Roman Catholic and Protestant spokesmen have expressed themselves in contradictory ways concerning family limitation.

The February issue of the Catholic Association for International Peace noted what Pope Pius said to members of the Association of Large Families of Rome and Italy:

"Large families are living proofs of the physical and moral health of a Christian people, of vital trust in God and His providence, and of the fruitful and joyful holiness of Catholic marriage."

In April, on the other hand, before the U.S. Conference for the World Council of Churches, Richard Fagley, Director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, gave an address on "Population and International Development."

Dr. Fagley noted that many programs of economic development were not very large but what help they were giving was being cancelled out by rapid population growths in many nations. It took 50 centuries for the population of the world to reach 1 billion (1830), one century to reach 2 billion (1930), 35 years to reach the third billion (1965), and at the present rate it will be 7 billion by 2000.

He believes that the position of the Roman Church is weak and "fraught with peril for mankind." "I believe," he continues, "we have a clear obligation to refute it, to establish a firm ecumenical witness on the question itself, and to provide some backbone for governmental leaders who shilly shally while the fuse on the population bomb continues to burn."

Copies of this address may be obtained by sending a self-addressed and stamped envelope to the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, 297 Fourth Ave., New York 10.

SOCIAL ACTION CHART

The three Social Action Boards of The Methodist Church have cooperated with the Social Action Council of South Carolina in the production of a new turnover chart.

It is not denominational. It deals with the content of a social action program, seeking to awaken interest in social concerns in local churches. It will measure 14 x 21 inches The art work will be clear and distinctive so that it can be seen by 50 to 60 persons in a meeting.

It had its origin in district workshops promoted by the Board of Christian Social Relations of the South Carolina Conference and therefore includes the areas of temperance, world peace, and social and economic relations.

The price is $10.00. If you are interested in copies of this chart for conference, district, or local church use, send your orders to the Board of World Peace.

"COLD WAR" CANDOR

Dr. Denna F. Fleming, research professor of International Relations at Vanderbilt University, spoke to the National Academy of Economics and Political Science on "The Role of Europe in Current International Affairs."

Of special interest was his review of the 'cold war":

"(After the proclamation of the containment policy) the communist seizure of power in Hungary and Czechoslovakia, plus Stalin's effort to evict us from West Berlin, convinced us that a Soviet juggernaut was on the march, destination first the English Channel, then the world. The natural explanation that Stalin was only consolidating his hold on the zone we sought to contain him in was overcome by the fright which his counter measures generated. It produced NATO, which in the heated atmosphere of power politics was a legitimate and inevitable response to the fears aroused by the Czech coup and the Berlin blockade. . . ."

"In West Europe our frozen certainty that the Russians would march West at any time unless countered by military might on the spot, in addition to the nuclear deterrent, is still an unproved assumption. The garrison of twenty-odd Soviet divisions in East Europe has remained a garrison throughout all the alarms and storms and furies of the cold war. It has always been able to march to the channel but it never has. . . ."

The quarrel over what kind of governments the East Europeans should have after the Second World War "initiated the cold war, which soon spread to Greece, producing in March 1947 the most remarkable of all of our foreign policy pronouncements, the Truman Doctrine, calling for the confinement of communism and the containment of the Soviet Union. The policy resulted in our armed encirclement of first the Soviet Union and then of China. This seemed a practical proposition when these two vast peoples were almost prostrate from their terrible war losses and we had all of the A-bombs, but it has already stimulated revivals so remarkable that we are beginning to ask why our leaders ever thought they could quarantine two vast peoples possessing enormous resources and standing back to back."

"We have lingered in the rigors of the cold war far too long. We have pursued a high tension policy until much of the world has turned against us, and the rest of it may do so if peace is not made soon. We have practiced containment and encirclement until the encircler now finds himself encircled, as has happened once before in recent history. By 1960, or a few years later, we must expect the Soviet Union to be equipped with thousands of both jet bombers and ICBM's, enough to destroy this country utterly, and if they should not succeed completely there will be enough Red submarines equipped with 1500 mile missiles to stand off all our shores and methodically bomb any targets that are still standing.

"Our people have not yet realized fully the certainty of national death that will soon hang over their heads daily. When they do, we should see a revulsion against this kind of living from minute to minute that ought to be very rewarding to the younger political leaders who are astute enough to lead the demand for peace."

GUIDED TOUR TO SOVIET UNION

Opportunity to visit the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe as a member of a summar seminar directed by a specialist in international affairs is being given to interested persons.

The seminar is led by Dr. Charles F. Boss, executive secretary for the United Nations and intergovernmental affairs of the Board of World Peace of The Methodist Church. The group will leave New York by plane July 22 and return a day or two after Labor Day.

The program is being carried out under a treaty on mutual exchanges signed in Washington last January by the American and Russian ambassadors. The seminar is dedicated to relaxation of East-West tensions and to the exploration of means of improving the outlook for world peace.

Interviews and visitations at factories, farms, city councils, schools, universities, theatres, concerts and ballets will be enjoyed in the Soviet Union. Other countries on the itinerary include Finland, Romania, Yugoslavia, Austria, France, Czechoslovakia, United Kingdom, and Switzerland. Dr. Boss has established contacts in numerous previous visitations of these countries.

Clergymen, professors, graduate students and competent laymen are particularly invited to inquire. The New York office of the Board of World Peace is in Room 1016, 345 East 46th St., New York 17, N. Y.

METHODIST LAYMAN FOR TRADE

T. Walter Hardy, Jr., president of the Hardy Salt Co. in St. Louis and former chairman of the Commission on Christian Social Relations in Grace Methodist Church in that city, recently testified concerning trade agreements in Washington.

Speaking to the Ways and Means Committee of the House he acknowledged that his company was feeling the effects of low tariff rates. Salt is coming into this country in increasingly large quantities from Canada and the Bahamas.

However, he asserted that his company expected to meet this competition as best it could. Moreover, he felt that the over-all benefits of the trade program were so good that he urged the extension of it "for as long a period as possible."

CAPITOL CONCERNS

The President's request for establishment of a National Aeronautics and Space Agency is moving along before the Special Committee of the Senate and House. Support is wisely swinging toward a civilian agency but there is danger that their work may be limited by meager appropriations while space research by military agencies balloons.

The Foreign Aid authorization bill cleared the House nicely and in good shape, despite an attempt by Colmer (Miss.) to delete all economic aid and assistance. Wier (Minn.) sought to strike out military assistance and was also defeated.

Reciprocal Trade has cleared the Ways and Means Committee with some additional restrictions but opponents are growing more vocal as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade expires June 30 and time to act grows short.

Support is urged for:

S Con Res. 74 - The importance of the economic development of India.

HR 11174 - Seeking the appointment of an Assistant for International Cultural Relations under the Secretary of State.

HR 11033 - Hungarian Refugees. Changes status of 32,000 in U.S.A. from parolees to that of regular immigrants. This bill passed the House and now goes to the Senate.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

December 10, 1958, will be the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Plans are afoot for emphasizing the Declaration in churches and community groups.

There is great need for a careful study of the Declaration. Many persons have not seen nor read the document. The practices of many groups and nations are in violation of the principles of the Declaration.

To help churches deal adequately with human rights the Church Peace Union has issued a booklet, "In Your Hands", a guide for community action, for fifty cents. Copies of the booklet may be obtained from the Board of World Peace.

"Best" Peace Sermon: "Alternative to Annihilation" by Dr. Harold Bosley, 5¢ a copy.

"Best" new paperback dealing with peace and war: "Arms and Men" (A Study in American Military History) by Walter Millis - Mentor - 50¢.

The U.S. is financially assisting 11 nations under the atoms-for-peace program, providing some with uranium reactor fuel.

AFFAIRS AFAR

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND: Americans who thrill at the good done by economic aid and also those who groan because they assume we only are easy marks and dispensers of charity would alike learn much from the annual report of CORSO, the Council of 35 national organizations in New Zealand united for overseas relief. New Zealanders contributed £ 550,000 for aid to Europe, Africa, Asia and several Pacific island chains.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: The size of U.S. military establishments at home and abroad has increased to 54,671 square miles -- exceeding the size of the states of Rhode Island, Delaware, Connecticu Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maryla combined.

KUBAN, RUSSIA: Radio Moscow began this spring a series of short-wave broadcasts beamed at Iowa, with the title, "Kuban Calling Iowa", challenging Iowa farmers to "compete and cooperate in farming." Editor Lauren Soth of the Des Moines Register and Tribune won the Pulitzer Prize in 1955 for suggesting the earlier exchange of Iowa and Russian farmer visits. The Kuban is the rich soiled wheat prairie north of the Caucasus Mountains.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Though General John B. Medaris told the House Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration that the launching of a reconnaissance satellite by a hostile nation would be considered an invasion of the U.S., yet he supported the development of such a "seeing eye" satellite by the U.S.

CHICAGO: The annual meeting of the Board of World Peace will be in the Cass Hotel June 10-11. Featured speaker will be Dr. Wilmer Cooper of Washington, D.C. on the topic, "A Christian Critique of U.S. Foreign Policy." Resolutions on issues of immediate import will be considered and the program for the ensuing year drafted and adopted. Dr. Ralph W. Sockman is board president.

HANDBOOK

The new handbook of the Local Church Commission on Christian Social Relations, entitled, "Who Is My Neighbor?" will be off the press about July 1. Each local church should have a copy immediately.

This handbook will be the guide and basic reference tool for social action commissions for the balance of this quadrennium.

The price is 25¢ and the handbook may be obtained either through our office or the Methodist Publishing House.

Write your Congressman concerning adequate controls over military aircraft to clear commercial airlanes of continuing accidents.